



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Council Chambers

Monday, August 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present

Mayor, Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Brenda Boyd, Brent Guffey, Donnie Griffin, Nellie Floyd, Michael Brooks and Allen Hook were all present. City Manager, Josh Ross and City Attorney, David Smith were present.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Council member, Nellie Floyd led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustment and Approval of the Agenda

By motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the August agenda was approved with no revisions.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

Mayor Smith opened the floor for public comment. The following came forth:

- Phillip Scates of 416 Sunset Drive: Mr. Scates addressed the Board regarding the City's new tax rate. Mr. Scates addressed Mayor Smith and City Manager Ross last year after the adoption of the budget, and was assured that the City needed every dollar of the revaluation. Mr. Scates spoke of the American Dream, he built his home at the age of 18. With the new tax increase to 55 cent, his house taxes and insurance cost \$450 a month. By his calculations, the City is receiving a 65% increase compared to last year's rate. It is not hard to budget, he used to serve as a manager at Winn Dixie. If the city is in financial trouble, city officials should plan better.

Consent Agenda

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Donnie Griffin:

1. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting Regular Meeting minutes of the July 8, 2024 meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting Work Session Meeting minutes of the July 30, 2024 meeting.
3. **Temporary Street Closure - 3rd Annual Brew & Que Festival:** City administration is requesting the temporary closure of the 100 Block of West Virginia, East Virginia, West Pennsylvania Avenue, and the 100 Block of North and South 12th Street for the 3rd Annual Brew & Que Festival on Friday, September 20th and Saturday, September 21st, 2024.

Establish a Public Hearing - Rezoning Request (Development Solutions Group)

By motion of Michael Brooks and unanimous vote, City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 9th, 2024 at 7:00 PM to hear public comment regarding a rezoning request for property located at tax parcels #151640, #151644, and #151645 (35.77 acres) from Neighborhood Residential (#151645) and Rural (#151644 & 151640) to Neighborhood Residential Conditional District to accommodate the development of a single-family residential community that will consist of 93 single family units, with the intent to voluntarily annex tax parcels 151640 and 151644 into the Bessemer City limits.

Establish a Public Hearing - Text Amendment (Chapter 75 Traffic Codes)

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, City Council will hold a public hearing Monday, September 9th, 2024 at 7:00 PM to hear public comment regarding a text amendment to Chapter 75 of the City Code, to change the intersection of Arc Street and Costner Drive to a 4-way-stop.

9/11 Proclamation:

Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the 9/11 Proclamation aloud and declared September 11, 2024 as a day of remembrance in Bessemer City. All present were encouraged to engage in programming honoring those in the 9/11 attack on the twin towers.

By motion of Nellie Floyd and unanimous vote, the proclamation was adopted. A copy of the proclamation is available at City Hall.

Resolution - Stormwater Planning Grant

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, City Council approved a resolution accepting a NC Department of Environmental Quality LASII planning grant in the amount of \$340,000 for stormwater. These funds will be utilized to access the City's stormwater plans and maintain the MS4 permit.

Award Lead & Copper Engineering Services

Slade Harvin, with Harvin Engineering PLLC addressed City Council regarding the Lead & Copper study. Mr. Harvin commended city staff for applying for NC Department Environmental Quality SRF grant funds. The city's initiative to apply for funds secured a 90% grant with principal forgiveness to cover a state mandated project. An inventory of infrastructure has been mandated by the EPA and the State to check public and private pipelines. The fieldwork is projected to take about six months. Once this is complete, customers will be notified of any issues so that they can be corrected. The weather will determine the length of the project. Conducting this study is part of a federal and state mandate.

By motion of Michael Brooks and unanimous vote, the lead and copper engineering services contract was awarded to Harvin Engineering PLLC in the amount of \$760,000.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, Josh Ross, addressed Council regarding the following:

- Budget Amendment: By motion of Allen Hook and unanimous vote, the budget amendment regarding a Fire Department grant received in the amount of \$25,022.01. This is a 50/50 matching grant for turn out gear.
- Budget Amendment: By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, the budget amendment regarding a general fund transfer in the amount of \$14,000. This was needed to purchase additional water meters.

- General: Mr. Ross introduced Hannah Dove, a 2024-2025 UNC Lead fellow partnering with the City for a year. Ms. Dove will be housed in the administration department but will assist with other departmental tasks. Additionally, tonight is Nathan Hester's last City Council meeting. Mr. Hester's last day with the City is Friday, August 16th. He will become the Town Manager for the town of Taylorsville.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council Members, Allen Hook inquired about the Edgewood Road intersection. Mr. Ross informed him that NCDOT has been contracted multiple times. Council Member, Brent Guffey inquired about the Gibson Branch Creek at Stinger Park. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about several DOT intersections and the sidewalks along Highway 161 by Whiskey Mill.

Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk